1	2
	Bikaner
	Jaisalmer
	Jodhpur
	Nathdwara
Tamil Nadu	Dharmapuri
	Kumbakonam
	Tirunelveli
Uttar Pradesh	Banda
	Lakhimpur
West Bengal	Balurghat
	Kharagpur
	Krishnanagar
	Shantiniketan
Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Shortage of Kerosene

1816. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that supply of Kerosene is extremely less in Fair Price Shops and Consumers Stores are selling the same to petty Kerosene dealers/sellers at a higher prices;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for shortage of Kerosene as a whole; and

(c) the precautionary measures being taken to stop the black-marketing of kerosene by consumer stores particularly in Indore, Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) (a) to (c). Government allocates kerosene to States on the basis of availability, past trends in offtake and other relevant factors. The operational aspects of Public Distribution System (PDS) including inter-district/inter-regional allocation, opening of kerosene oil depots, enforcement measures, ensuring availability at the Fair Price Shops etc. are within the administrative jursidiction of the State Govt./UT Admns. Central Government, on its part, makes all efforts to maintain regular supply of kerosene to all States/UTs including Madhya Pradesh for distribution within the State.

State Govt./UT Admns. have been delegated powers under the Essential Commodities Act, etc. to take action against persons indulging in malpractices such as blackmarketing. The Central Government also reviews the implementation of PDS with the State Govt./UT Admns. including Madhya Pradesh from time to time.

[Translation]

Functioning of Indian Airlines and Air India

1817. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to improve the functioning of Indian Arlines and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also propose to reduce the extra unproductive expenditure of the above organisations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if ratio of such expenditure estimated in each of the above organisations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c). Air India and Indian Airlines are taking steps to expand their services and improve their product, image and on time performance to attract more passengers and increase their revenues. Steps are also being taken to reduce the non-operating and operating costs. A Committee has been constituted by the Government to make recommendations on reationalisation of routes operated by Air India and India Airlines and possible code sharing between the two air lines.

(e) During 1994-95, the non-operating expenses of Air India and Indian Airlines (as a percentage of total expenses) were 5.48% and 11.09% respectively. During 1995-96 this figure reduced to 4.65% for Air India and 10.31% for Indian Airlines.

Telephones Out of Order

1818. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of telephones remained out of order/dead in the country which take a lot of time to set them right;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any scheme so that complaints are attended to rectified expeditiously;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which the said scheme likely to be effective?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) No, Sir the telephones are repaired promptly.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.